

What is a Fire Watch?

When a required fire alarm or automatic fire extinguishing system is rendered inoperable for a period of 4 hours or more, the facility administrator is responsible to ensure a fire watch is in place.

Criteria for a fire watch: Notification; Patrol, Prevention, & Communicating an Alarm, and Documentation.

Notification

Provide notification to the local fire department that the system(s) is inoperable and the estimated time to repair. *

Provide notification to the Licensure Agency that the system(s) is inoperable and the estimated time to repair. Call (208) 334-6626 *

** Also notify this entities when the system is back in service*

Patrol, Prevention & Communicating an Alarm

Assign a competent and reliable staff member, with access to communications, to provide a patrol of the facility on a complete set of rounds every thirty (30) minutes. This person shall have no other duties other than the patrol; this individual should be trained in fire prevention observation and in notifying occupants and the local fire department, should a fire occur. Duties include checking areas affected by the fire alarm system outage, to include storage areas, hazardous areas, resident rooms, employee work areas, break rooms, and exit corridors

Documentation

A log should be kept of each round of patrol, identifying who conducted the fire watch, the date/time, and situations encountered (see example).

Training for personnel assigned to fire watch duties should include the identification and control of fire hazards including; open flames, electrical, cooking, and heating equipment hazards, and other specialized equipment or process hazards in the facility.

Code References

NFPA 101 Section 9.6.1.8

Where a required fire alarm system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the fire alarm system has been returned to service.

NFPA 101 Section 9.7.6.1

Where a required automatic sprinkler system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the authority having jurisdiction shall be notified, and the building shall be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all parties left unprotected by the shutdown until the sprinkler system has been returned to service.

A fire watch should at least involve some special action beyond normal staffing, such as assigning an additional security guard(s) to walk the areas affected. These individuals should be specially trained in fire prevention and in occupant and fire department notification techniques, and they should understand the particular fire safety situation for public education purposes.

Rules for Residential Care or Assisted Living Facilities in Idaho

IDAPA 16.03.22.415.06. -- Fire Watch. The facility must institute a fire watch during any time the fire alarm, smoke detection, or sprinkler system is inoperable for greater than four (4) hours.

Fire Watch Log

Facility Name_____ Administrator_____

System Out of Service Date_____ Time_____ Repaired & Tested_____

Notifications: Fire Dept _____ Time _____ Facility Standards ____ Time _____

[illegible]